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FOREIGN CROPS, MAY-JUNE, 1912.

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FOREIGN CROPS, MAY-JUNE, 1912.

CANADA.

The tremendous impulse which during the last two years has added three and three-quarter million acres to the wheat lands of Canada has this season not resulted in the expansion anticipated. In 1911, it may be recalled, wheat covered a record area of 10,373,958 acres, of which 9,201,939 acres were under the spring and 1,172,119 acres under the winter variety. In the current season, owing largely to heavy losses from winter-kill in Alberta and Ontario and to adverse conditions for seeding spring wheat in the western Provinces, the total wheat area is probably somewhat less than last year. The area under oats is larger than last year, and that under barley has been somewhat extended. A bulletin of the Canadian Census and Statistics Office, Department of Trade and Commerce, published June 14, states:

Throughout the greater part of Canada the spring this year has been cold, wet, and backward. Continuous rains, especially in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Quebec, have greatly interfered with the spring seeding, and at the end of May large areas in these three Provinces, particularly on low-lying lands, were still unseeded. It is impossible therefore to base upon the data at present available complete estimates of the areas sown to this year's principal field crops, and the following are consequently preliminary figures subject to revision at the end of June. The area under fall wheat, deducting the winter-killed in Ontario and Alberta, is placed at 781,000 acres. Spring wheat occupies 9,145,000 acres, and the total wheat area amounts therefore to 9,926,000 acres. Oats show an area of 9,486,000 acres and barley 1,429,000 acres. Rye, peas, and mixed grains have a total acreage of 894,000, the area of hay and clover is 7,904,000 acres, and alfalfa is sown to 112,000 acres. Condition at the end of May, 100 representing the promise of a full crop, is high for all products reported on, excepting fall wheat, the per cent condition of which, viz, 71.46, is lower than in any of the three previous years at the same date. This crop suffered from the exceptionally severe winter in Ontario and from the lack of sufficient snow protection in Alberta, whilst the cold wet spring has been adverse to recovery and good growth. The condition of spring wheat is 94.21, against 96.69 last year; oats, 91.67, against 94.76; barley, 91.08, against 93.49; rye, 87.24, against 90.26; peas, 83.85, against 92.15; mixed grains, 87.72, against 93.84. The condition of hay and clover is 96.10, compared with 74.63 at the end of April and 91.45 at the end of May, 1911. Alfalfa, where grown, shows this year an average condition of 90.65. For the

three Northwest Provinces the areas are, as estimated as May 31: Wheat, 9,122,000 acres; oats, 5,097,000 acres; and barley, 837,000 acres.

The condition of these cereals in the Northwest Provinces is over 95 per cent, except fall wheat in Alberta, where it is 76.62 per cent. In Saskatchewan the area under fall wheat is estimated at 53,000 acres; condition May 31, 93.28.

In Ontario and Alberta—the only Provinces where winter wheat is grown extensively—the areas sown last autumn were, respectively, 797,200 and 300,700 acres, a total of 1,097,000 acres. Of this total, 345,000 acres, i. e., 229,000 in Ontario and 116,000 in Alberta, are officially reported to have been destroyed by the rigors of winter. The total area of winter wheat left to be harvested in these two Provinces is, therefore, only 752,000 acres compared with 1,131,656 last year.

In the three western Provinces, where spring wheat is grown almost exclusively, delays in seeding were caused in many districts by cold weather, excessive moisture, and other causes; on May 1 only 50.13 per cent of the spring wheat sowings were completed in Manitoba, and 61.26 per cent in Alberta, whereas at the same date a year ago 70 per cent of the area had been drilled in the former Province and 80 per cent in Alberta. In Saskatchewan, by far the most important producer of the three Provinces, conditions were better, 71.54 per cent of the area being sown on May 1 compared with 70 per cent at the same date in 1911. Sowing was completed in the latter half of May, and germination was, in general, satisfactory. Weather conditions, on the whole, have been auspicious, and the prospect at the end of June was encouraging.

Respecting the outcome of the 1911 crop, it may be of interest to note, the Census and Statistics Office has reported in substance as follows:

Out of a yield of 215,851,300 bushels of wheat harvested in 1911, 188,255,000 bushels, or 87 per cent, were merchantable, and at the end of March, 1912, 58,129,000 bushels, or 27 per cent of the whole, were yet in farmers' hands. At the same date in 1911 the quantity in hand in all Canada was 33,042,000 bushels, or 22 per cent of the total crop of 149,989,600 bushels, of which 141,096,000 bushels, or 94 per cent, were of merchantable quality.

Oats, which in 1911 gave a yield of 348,187,600 bushels, was merchantable to the extent of 310,074,000 bushels, or 89 per cent, and the quantity in hand at the end of March was 153,846,000 bushels, or 44.18 per cent. In the preceding year the quantity in hand out of a total harvest of 323,449,000 bushels was 127,587,000 bushels, or 39.44 per cent, and there was a total of 301,773,000 bushels, or 93.29 per cent, of merchantable quality.

The barley yield of 1911 was 40,641,000 bushels: in hand at the end of March 13,235,000 bushels, or 32.56 per cent. The merchant-

able yield was 36,683,000 bushels, or 90.26 per cent. The barley crop of 1910 was 45,147,000 bushels, and the quantity on hand at the end of March last year was 13,135,000 bushels, or 29 per cent. The merchantable quantity of that crop was 41,505,000 bushels, or 91.93 per cent.

The exports of cereals, flaxseed, apples, and cheese from Canada during the fiscal years 1903 to 1912 are reported by the Ministry of Customs to have been as follows:

Exports of domestic wheat, wheat flour, barley, oats, flaxseed, apples, and cheese, from Canada, 1903-1912.

[From the Department of Customs, Canada.]

Year ending June 30—	Wheat.	Wheat flour.	Barley.	Oats.	Flaxseed.	Apples.	Cheese.
	<i>Bushels.</i>	<i>Barrels.</i>	<i>Bushels.</i>	<i>Bushels.</i>	<i>Bushels.</i>	<i>Barrels.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>
1903.....	32,985,745	1,287,766	947,012	7,593,177	.....	1,000,528	229,099,925
1904.....	16,779,028	1,587,600	1,057,670	4,695,241	1,411	1,598,614	233,980,716
1905.....	14,700,315	1,321,469	1,041,208	2,367,499	.....	1,037,148	215,733,259
1906.....	40,399,402	1,532,014	880,028	2,700,303	2,824	1,217,564	215,834,543
1907 ¹	25,480,127	1,092,123	1,198,130	4,539,436	121,582	1,977,961	178,141,567
1908 ²	43,654,668	1,962,740	1,990,444	7,123,291	10,997	1,629,130	189,710,463
1909 ²	49,137,449	1,738,038	2,959,335	5,255,610	693,779	1,092,066	164,907,139
1910 ²	49,741,350	3,064,028	2,044,901	3,401,732	1,997,648	1,604,477	180,859,886
1911 ²	45,802,115	3,049,046	1,545,253	5,431,662	2,696,119	523,658	181,895,724
1912 ²	64,466,286	3,738,836	2,061,667	8,880,675	1,504,528	1,664,165	163,450,684

¹ Nine months ending Mar. 31, 1907.

² Twelve months ending Mar. 31.

Respecting the production of flax-seed in 1911, the Census and Statistics Office states:

Our crop-reporting correspondents were asked at the end of March to state what percentage of the area sown to flax in 1911 was not harvested. The replies indicate that in Manitoba about 20, in Saskatchewan about 40, and in Alberta about 57 per cent of the areas sown to flax was not harvested. Deducting these proportions from the areas sown, as returned by the census of June 1, the revised estimate amounts to 7,730,000 bushels as the yield of flax-seed in the Northwest Provinces, which is 5,054,000 bushels less than the estimate reported at the end of December. The revised yield and value of flaxseed in 1911 will therefore be by Provinces as follows:

Province.	Area harvested.	Yield per acre.	Total yield.	Weight per measured bushel.	Average price per bushel.	Total value.
	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Bushels.</i>	<i>Bushels.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Dollars.</i>	<i>Dollars.</i>
Canada.....	682,622	11.52	7,867,000	53.29	1.507	11,855,000
Quebec.....	1,719	11.31	19,000	53.81	1.706	32,000
Ontario.....	8,367	14.06	118,000	52.25	1.893	223,000
Manitoba.....	62,231	14.44	899,000	55.31	1.760	1,582,000
Saskatchewan.....	570,030	11.25	6,413,000	53.89	1.503	9,639,000
Alberta.....	40,275	10.39	418,000	53.43	1.202	502,000

It will be understood that these figures are only approximate, as it is impossible to state exactly the acreage sown to flax that was not harvested owing to failure of the crop.

BRITISH INDIA.

The Commercial Intelligence Department, India, has published the following estimate, by Provinces, of the area and production of wheat and flaxseed in British India in 1912 as compared with the previous year:

Area and production of wheat and flaxseed in British India, by Provinces, 1912 and 1911.

WHEAT.

Province.	Area.		Production.	
	1912	1911	1912	1911
	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Bushels.</i>	<i>Bushels.</i>
Punjab ¹	10,448,000	9,981,000	138,320,000	138,469,333
United Provinces.....	7,578,000	7,342,000	113,157,333	108,976,000
Central Provinces and Berar.....	3,559,000	3,585,000	32,256,000	36,325,333
Bombay ¹	1,040,000	1,855,000	7,914,667	18,890,667
Sind ¹	384,000	560,000	3,546,667	5,077,333
Bihar and Orissa.....	1,285,000	1,312,000	20,794,667	21,280,000
Bengal.....	140,000	143,000	1,568,000	1,418,667
Northwest Frontier.....	1,203,000	1,033,000	10,453,333	9,930,667
Central India.....	2,850,000	2,460,000	29,045,333	21,728,000
Hyderabad.....	970,000	1,104,000	1,605,333	3,621,333
Rajputana.....	² 926,000	² 1,112,000	7,690,667	9,109,333
Mysore.....	3,800	2,800	18,667	18,667
Total.....	30,386,800	30,489,800	366,370,667	374,845,333

FLAXSEED.

United Provinces.....	{pure.... 848,800	472,800	6,388,000	4,116,000
	{mixed... 747,000	656,000	5,600,000	5,680,000
Central Provinces and Berar.....	1,829,200	1,080,400	5,788,000	4,980,000
Bombay ¹	129,500	194,700	380,000	1,132,000
Bengal.....	206,800	196,900	1,528,000	1,228,000
Bihar and Orissa.....	567,800	510,300	4,804,000	4,096,000
Assam.....	13,800	14,900	88,000	96,000
Hyderabad.....	603,500	631,300	1,072,000	1,216,000
Total.....	{pure.... 4,199,400	3,101,300	20,048,000	16,864,000
	{mixed... 747,000	656,000	5,600,000	5,680,000

¹ Including Native States.

² Excluding Mewar.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The bulk of the seed for the 1912 winter-wheat crop went into well-prepared soil last autumn during generally auspicious weather. Germination was, on the whole, gratifying, and during the entire winter and early spring generally mild temperature and copious rains promoted precocious and vigorous growth. The total area is officially returned as not quite 2 per cent larger than in 1911.

The spring months were not wholly favorable to either the agricultural or the pastoral industries. Drought prevailed pretty generally throughout the country from late March to early May, the adverse effects upon the germination of late-sown crops and upon the growth of pastures being intensified by cold east winds and frosty nights after sunny days. In a report on the agricultural situation, June 1, the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries says:

The crop reporters of the board all refer to the droughty conditions of April and the greater part of May as having had a deleterious effect upon the corn

(grain) crops. Rain the last 10 days of the month, however, effected a material improvement, but much more was needed. Wheat is now generally healthy and vigorous, though straw is short, but the crop is rather variable and mostly thin on the poorer soils. Barley is hardly satisfactory, as germination has been very irregular nearly everywhere, especially among the later-sown crops, and it is not yet all above ground. There are many reports of damage by wireworm. Oats are also generally uneven and suffering from lack of moisture; still the crop is healthy generally, though thin. The acreage under barley is rather less than last year, that under oats rather more. Beans, although short in straw, are generally promising, except in the west midlands, where frost has done much damage. Peas also promise fairly well.

Potatoes are generally looking fairly well, although they make but slow growth in the absence of rain, and the crops are not all yet above ground. In most districts frosts have done a little damage to the early crops. The area is slightly larger than last year.

Mangolds are backward and germinating slowly; some areas had not yet been sown. Where up, they are looking well, particularly since the recent rains, but in some localities the plant is patchy.

The long-continued drought has told very severely on the "seeds," and both clover and meadow hay will be much below the average. The eastern, south-eastern, and midland districts are very much the worst, and considerable areas of "seeds" have been plowed up. In the north and Scotland many districts report promise of good crops, although they are outweighed by the number of bad reports. The indications on the 1st of June were that in Great Britain, as a whole, the yield per acre of "seeds" hay would be only 87 per cent of the average, while that of meadow hay might be 92 per cent.

Hops are looking strong and healthy and growing freely, though somewhat unevenly in places. There is a great deal of vermin, and washing is already general. A rough survey indicates an area this year 3 to 4 per cent greater than in 1911, most of the increase being in Kent.

Of fruit, strawberries would appear to be somewhat under average. Raspberries are fairly promising; still more so are currants and gooseberries. Apples seem variable, but should probably be an over-average crop. Pears are much better, while cherries may possibly reach a bare average. Plums appear likely to be appreciably below average.

Pastures became very bare during the dry weather, but are much improved by the timely rains. Live stock have done fairly well during the month, although in some parts, as a result of the dried-up pastures, their condition is somewhat poor.

Since the publication of the June 1 report the weather has been seasonably warm and the condition of vegetation has, on the whole, improved. The July 1 report of the Board of Agriculture gives the condition of crops on that date as follows:

Year.	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Beans.	Pease.	Potatoes.	Meadow hay.	Hops.
1912.....	99	99	90	98	102	102	99	100
1911.....	101	97	94	99	90	102	90	98

The official figures upon the total imports of wheat and wheat flour into the United Kingdom in 1911 show them to have been of somewhat less than average proportions, owing partly to the excellent

results of the last harvest. The official figures on imports of wheat (in bushels of 60 pounds) and wheat flour, 1907-1911, by countries of origin, are shown in the following statement:

Imports of wheat and wheat flour into the United Kingdom, 1907-1911.

WHEAT.

Country of origin.	1907	1908	1909	1910	1911
	<i>Bushels.</i>	<i>Bushels.</i>	<i>Bushels.</i>	<i>Bushels.</i>	<i>Bushels.</i>
Russia.....	21,336,187	9,607,939	33,310,368	54,024,320	33,798,053
Roumania.....	4,745,813	2,389,333	984,107	1,753,173	3,644,293
United States.....	37,232,720	48,101,947	28,940,987	20,437,947	24,153,227
Argentina.....	40,881,120	59,157,280	37,403,893	28,246,027	27,530,720
British East Indies.....	34,103,253	5,504,613	27,315,307	33,444,578	37,634,834
Australia.....	15,538,507	10,300,640	18,106,853	24,486,000	25,966,677
Canada.....	24,678,267	29,487,164	31,016,057	30,705,173	26,830,907
Other countries.....	2,864,400	5,562,667	5,584,021	3,318,373	3,578,251
Total.....	181,380,267	170,111,583	182,661,593	196,415,591	183,136,962

WHEAT FLOUR.

	<i>Barrels.</i>	<i>Barrels.</i>	<i>Barrels.</i>	<i>Barrels.</i>	<i>Barrels.</i>
Germany.....	220,549	221,389	335,234	335,943	161,157
France.....	413,440	205,429	305,531	250,800	228,400
Austria-Hungary.....	245,704	143,031	61,542	70,975	60,600
United States.....	5,561,174	5,690,765	3,959,435	2,927,874	2,923,663
Argentina.....	28,229	64,634	48,800	57,943	50,286
Australia.....	75,086	131,600	297,715	233,029	254,514
Canada.....	817,383	873,784	1,176,800	1,590,686	1,867,867
Other countries.....	236,931	80,714	130,680	224,459	205,016
Total.....	7,598,496	7,411,346	6,315,737	5,691,709	5,751,503
Total wheat and flour ¹	215,573,499	203,462,640	211,082,410	222,028,282	209,018,726

¹ Wheat flour expressed as wheat on the basis of $4\frac{1}{2}$ bushels of wheat equal 1 barrel of flour.

FRANCE.

Although agricultural conditions have varied widely this season in different regions of France, the dominant complaint throughout the spring was lack of sufficient rainfall and unseasonably cool weather. Owing, however, to the mild open winter autumn-sown wheat, rye, barley, and oats were generally forward in growth, and a temporary check in their development only tended to lessen losses from lodging. The French Ministry of Agriculture reported the condition of winter wheat on July 1 to be 71 per cent on an increased area, compared with 70.0 per cent at the same date last year. To some of the spring-sown crops, on the other hand, the drought and persistent north winds were detrimental; much seed, especially oats, is said to have germinated irregularly; however, on July 1, the date to which the last official report refers, the condition of this important crop was, on a full area, given as 75 per cent, against 69.6 per cent on July 1, 1911, while spring wheat, seeded earlier and hence more advanced in growth, showed a condition of 74 against 70.0 per cent at the same date a year ago. The preliminary estimate of the French Ministry of Agriculture on the areas under cereals, potatoes, etc., on May 1, 1912, and the two preceding years, and estimates by the same authority of the

total areas actually sown in 1911 and 1910, as finally determined, are shown below:

Preliminary estimate of areas under grain, etc., in France, May 1, 1912, 1911, 1910; and final estimate of areas sown in 1911, 1910.

Crop.	Preliminary.			Final.	
	1912	1911	1910	1911	1910
Wheat:	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>
Winter.....	15,759,396	14,247,761	15,523,316	.....	.....
Spring.....	419,576	1,291,641	614,637	.....	.....
Total wheat.....	16,178,972	15,539,402	16,137,953	15,803,900	16,198,319
Maslin.....	320,810	301,882	340,726	308,183	337,020
Rye.....	2,998,040	2,727,762	3,068,117	2,308,183	2,994,185
Barley:					
Winter.....	368,550	353,860	358,419	.....	.....
Spring.....	1,500,589	1,564,229	1,487,715	.....	.....
Total barley.....	1,869,139	1,918,089	1,846,134	1,913,604	1,849,494
Oats:					
Winter.....	2,004,450	1,849,568	1,978,258	.....	.....
Spring.....	7,891,311	8,101,421	7,731,190	.....	.....
Total oats.....	9,895,761	9,950,989	9,709,449	9,930,300	9,763,662
Potatoes.....	3,820,388	3,710,577	3,741,341	3,837,463	3,822,612
Sugar beets.....	610,040	593,336	587,954	591,829	611,301
Beets for distilling.....	162,680	133,137	127,775	134,756	121,598
Mangold.....	1,620,630	1,623,966	1,594,783	1,629,130	1,644,352
Clover, alfalfa, and sanfoin.....	7,404,753	7,405,463	7,430,791	(1)	7,464,545
Grasses and grass mixtures.....	771,508	671,593	659,164	(1)	693,140
Meadows.....	11,935,068	11,335,465	11,746,393	(1)	12,069,352
Forage, annual.....	1,759,661	1,646,872	1,696,144	(1)	1,849,964
Vines.....	4,100,479	3,385,877	3,906,033	(1)	4,027,110

¹ No data.

The surface under wheat this season, although over 600,000 acres larger than last year, is about normal; should no adversity befall the crop between now and harvest, the present appearance of the plants would indicate a yield almost, if not quite, equal to that of last year. During the last two years, it may be recalled, the native crop has been insufficient for domestic requirements, usually estimated at about 340,000,000 bushels annually. Owing to a partial crop failure in 1910, the yield was only 253,000,000 bushels, and in 1911 a decreased acreage, caused mostly by an inclement seedtime, gave an outturn of only 323,000,000 bushels. As a result of these unusual conditions, over 100,000,000 bushels of wheat have been imported into France during the last two years, of which only about 5,500,000 were taken from the United States. It is officially stated, moreover, that supplies of wheat are now sufficient to meet the demands of the country up to the 1912 harvest, but the belief prevails in commercial circles that the carry over will be a rather small one, and that the necessity for an early harvest, which now seems assured, is urgent. The French Ministry of Finance reports imports of wheat in 1911, compared with the four previous years, as follows, by countries of origin.

Imports (special) of wheat¹ into France, by countries of origin, calendar years 1907-1911.

[Bushels of 60 pounds.]

Country.	1907	1908	1909	1910	1911
	<i>Bushels.</i>	<i>Bushels.</i>	<i>Bushels.</i>	<i>Bushels.</i>	<i>Bushels.</i>
United Kingdom.....	11,192	8,440	6,367	785,969	1,107,852
Belgium.....	1,973	1,922	1,804	624,372	998,566
Russia.....	2,767,012	104,032	89,646	2,603,033	9,907,825
Germany.....	1,481	1,315	312	2,720,616	5,186,101
Roumania.....	1,073,074	18,280	386	6,249,582	15,739,363
Turkey.....	19,952	467	169	9,186	2,609
British India.....	27,991	8,932	886	1,117,153	3,900,070
Australia.....	69,302	6,011	125	1,225,956	14,492,857
United States.....	243,869	12,651	8,036	1,088,617	4,393,849
Argentina.....	231,608	46,256	566	140,701	12,989,602
Algeria.....	7,603,757	2,033,795	4,169,960	5,782,416	6,208,419
Tunis.....	591,840	86,773	657,118	349,767	2,041,702
Free zone.....	349,583	413,329	279,889	358,982	416,684
Other countries.....	138,485	10,185	33,275	270,490	1,372,279
Total.....	13,131,119	2,752,388	5,248,539	23,326,840	78,755,778

¹ Includes maslin and spelt.

In 1897 imports were 19,204,429 bushels.

In 1898 imports were 71,817,263 bushels.

SPAIN.

During the last five years there has been a constant tendency to augment the cultivation of wheat, the acreage having been steadily enlarged from 9,138,000 acres in 1907 to 9,705,000 in 1911. The official estimate of the total surface sown this season is not available, but, other conditions being favorable, the fiscal regulations governing the admission of imports of foreign wheat would tend to prevent any important delimitation of acreage. Late reports on the appearance of the growing crop indicate that the harvest will give scarcely medium results, some districts having suffered severely from lack of moisture. The revised and final official report on the olive and olive-oil crop of 1911-12 is given below:

Production of olives and olive oil in Spain, 1911-12, by regions.

[Estimates of the Junta Consultiva Agronomica.]

Region.	Area of trees.	Production of olives.			Production of olive oil.		
		Per acre.	Total.	For oil.	Per 100 pounds of olives.	Total.	Per acre.
	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Tons.¹</i>	<i>Tons.¹</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Tons.¹</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>
New Castile.....	211,490	824	87,167	86,312	18.24	15,741	150
Mancha and Estremadura...	388,389	855	166,024	162,870	19.55	31,844	167
Old Castile.....	19,046	3,621	34,488	34,431	20.62	7,101	747
Aragon and Rioga.....	149,794	1,970	147,540	147,374	19.67	28,996	387
Leon.....	10,376	794	4,120	3,933	18.26	718	145
Galicia and Asturias.....	445	595	132	132	20.07	27	120
Navarre and Vizcaya.....	23,052	389	4,485	4,353	21.41	932	83
Catalonia.....	451,551	1,016	229,357	229,145	19.40	44,456	197
Levante.....	269,537	1,126	151,757	146,198	19.64	28,718	221
East Andalusia.....	756,808	1,336	505,905	502,094	20.65	103,690	276
West Andalusia.....	1,221,845	1,738	1,061,842	971,052	19.67	190,991	343
Balearic Islands.....	64,864	1,658	53,756	53,217	22.02	11,717	365
Grand total.....	3,567,197	1,371	2,446,573	2,341,111	19.86	464,931	272

¹ 2,000 pounds.

ITALY.

The appearance of the growing crops throughout by far the greater part of the country is reported to differ in no noteworthy respect from that of normal years. The official estimate of the area under wheat—the only cereal, excepting corn, grown in Italy on a really extensive scale—is 11,737,500 acres, compared with 11,741,000 acres harvested last year. Seedtime last autumn, if drought in three Provinces be excepted, was for the most part during propitious weather, and by virtue of an exceptionally mild winter the plants at the opening of spring were in general vigorous and healthy. Virtually the only complaint was of animal and vegetable parasites, the increase of which had probably been fostered by the moderate winter.

As in many parts of western Europe, the spring weather has been at times disadvantageous to the pursuit of agriculture. The earlier reports showed fruit trees blossoming satisfactorily everywhere and grapevines making seasonable development. But in April a prolonged period of low temperatures, accompanied by frosts and violent winds, set in, and for a time the growth of all vegetation was held at a standstill. It is now claimed, however, that the damage to fruit trees, excepting in a few places, was slight, and the check upon the rapid and abnormal growth of wheat beneficial. The latest reports indicate a generally promising state of agriculture; even in those parts of the south where a prolonged drought, now broken, had caused great anxiety improvement is noted.

BELGIUM.

As might be expected in a country where intensive farming is widely practiced, the areas under the principal cereals ordinarily change little from one year to another. Of late years, however, there has been a slight tendency to diminish the cultivation of rye in Belgium and to expand that of wheat; but, as the movement has not been rapid, the premier crop still occupies upward of 630,000 acres annually, while wheat has scarcely attained the 400,000-acre mark. The annual surface under oats, it may be noted, closely approximates that of rye in extent, and slightly less than 100,000 acres is annually sown to barley. Autumn seeding for the 1912 harvest was in general under favorable conditions, and the areas sown to the respective crops are reported to show no important departures from normal. Excepting during a spell of cold, dry weather in late April and early May vegetation has in general made good progress and prospects for the coming harvest are encouraging.

GERMANY.

Vegetation, seriously retarded in growth by drought and low temperature in April throughout practically the whole Empire, was revived by the return of showery, springlike weather in early May, and, in a report relative to the crop situation June 1, the Imperial Statistical Bureau shows both winter rye and wheat to promise better than at the same date last year, rye, however, having suffered somewhat more from the adverse conditions than did wheat. The dearth of moisture, occurring as it did at a season when moisture is most wanted, has left regrettable traces. Not in years have the clover and alfalfa fields in June presented so poor a prospect; feeding stuffs in general have to a certain extent been irreparably injured; barley and oats are said to have suffered in some districts from frost; and even if genial weather continues until harvest, delay, it is felt, is almost certain to ensue from the three or four weeks of dry, cold weather in the middle of spring. Potatoes have had a by no means encouraging start.

The areas abandoned from various causes have been quite extensive, especially in the case of clover, alfalfa, and winter wheat. Of the clover acreage, which usually amounts to about 5,000,000 acres annually, 13.7 per cent was turned under, compared with 3.9 last year, and of lucern 2.8 per cent, compared with 3.9. The abandonment of winter wheat was 4.1 per cent of the area sown and of winter rye 0.1 per cent; last year's abandonment of these cereals was, respectively, 2.9 and 2.3 per cent. Winter rye usually covers about 15,000,000 acres and winter wheat about four and one-fourth millions. The Imperial Statistical Bureau's report on the condition of specified crops on June 1 and May 1, 1912, contrasted with those on June 1 in preceding years, is subjoined.

Conditions of crops in Germany.

[1=very good; 2=good; 3=medium; 4=poor; 5=very poor.]

Crop.	June 1, 1912.	May 1, 1912.	June 1, 1911.	June 15, 1910.	June 15, 1909.	June 15, 1908.	June 15, 1907.
Winter wheat.....	2.3	2.5	2.5	2.2	3.0	2.1	2.9
Spring wheat.....	2.3	.....	2.6	2.5	2.7	2.5	2.4
Winter spelt.....	2.0	.....	2.5	2.0	2.4	2.1	2.4
Winter rye.....	2.6	2.6	2.7	2.4	2.8	2.3	2.7
Spring rye.....	2.4	.....	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.3	2.3
Spring barley.....	2.2	.....	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.3
Oats.....	2.4	.....	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.4	2.3
Potatoes.....	2.7	.....	2.6	2.5	2.6	2.7	2.5
Clover.....	3.4	3.5	2.9	2.2	3.3	2.0	3.0
Alfalfa.....	3.8	2.9	2.8	2.2	3.1	2.1	2.6

Notwithstanding the fact that wheat culture in Germany is increasing, the demand for foreign wheat, especially from Russia and Argentina, remains at a high level, as may be seen from statistics of

the imports and exports of wheat and wheat flour for the last five years.

Imports (special) of wheat and wheat flour into Germany, by countries of origin, calendar years 1907-1911.

[From "Statistik des Deutschen Reichs" and "Auswärtiger Handel Deutschlands."]

WHEAT.

Country of origin.	1907	1908	1909	1910	1911 ¹
	<i>Bushels.</i> ²	<i>Bushels.</i> ²	<i>Bushels.</i> ²	<i>Bushels.</i> ²	<i>Bushels.</i> ²
Australia.....	2,631,264	230,755	4,467,897	4,621,382	4,106,979
Canada.....	709	1,819		621,826	3,234,053
United States.....	19,943,528	27,436,155	11,225,309	6,194,349	11,086,279
Argentina.....	31,630,036	32,230,767	21,049,363	11,938,269	19,757,269
Roumania.....	12,616,110	5,438,329	4,406,136	6,192,516	8,255,029
Bulgaria.....	419,392	87,133	110,399	21,131	90,874
Russia, European.....	19,789,897	9,441,218	44,963,592	55,000,372	41,093,553
Chile.....	13,595	119,265	647,322	108,580	33,098
Other countries.....	3,154,675	1,828,125	2,530,105	1,418,479	3,671,305
Total.....	90,199,206	76,813,566	89,400,124	86,116,905	91,328,439

WHEAT FLOUR.

	<i>Barrels.</i> ³	<i>Barrels.</i> ³	<i>Barrels.</i> ³	<i>Barrels.</i> ³	<i>Barrels.</i> ³
United States.....	53,620	38,331	40,856	42,171	55,554
Other countries.....	167,679	152,549	100,436	124,686	116,481
Total.....	221,299	190,880	141,292	166,857	172,035

¹ Preliminary.

² Bushels of 60 pounds.

³ Barrels of 196 pounds.

Exports of wheat and wheat flour from Germany, 1907-1911.

Calendar year.	Wheat.	Wheat flour.
	<i>Bushels.</i> ²	<i>Barrels.</i> ³
1907.....	3,520,728	987,594
1908.....	9,594,081	1,702,845
1909.....	7,708,178	1,855,560
1910.....	10,339,162	2,137,285
1911 ¹	11,587,616	1,828,533

¹ Preliminary.

² Bushels of 60 pounds.

³ Barrels of 196 pounds.

AUSTRIA.

From autumn seedtime to the end of March plant life, with some exceptions, was favored by nonrigorous and humid weather, and on April 1 the aspect of the fields of winter wheat, and especially of rye, was exceptionally promising. April in Austria, as in many countries of Europe, was in general cold and dry, and by May 1 crop conditions had deteriorated considerably. Subsequent weather has caused improvement. On June 1 wheat was in head and beginning to bloom in the southern regions; and, excepting some lodging of rye and an excessive growth of weeds in low-lying oats and barley fields, prospects were better than at the same date a year ago. Wheat and rye looked somewhat better than in June last year, but barley and oats are not so satisfactory. The Austrian Ministry of Agriculture, which has this year changed the date of its crop-condition reports from

the middle to the first of each month, reports upon conditions April 1, May 1, and June 1, with comparisons, as under :

Crop conditions in Austria.

[1=very good; 2=good; 3=medium; 4=poor; 5=very poor.]

Crop.	1912			1911			1910		
	June 1.	May 1.	April 1.	June 15.	May 15.	April 15.	June 15.	May 15.	April 15.
Wheat.....	2.1	2.4	2.0	2.5	2.5	2.6	1.9	1.9	2.0
Rye.....	2.3	2.5	1.8	2.7	3.1	2.9	2.2	2.5	2.3
Barley.....	2.3	2.5	.....	2.4	2.3	2.8	2.6	2.2	2.3
Oats.....	2.4	2.6	.....	2.5	2.4	2.6	2.8	2.3	2.1
Corn.....	2.3	.....	.....	2.6	2.1	.....	2.2	2.2	.....
Potatoes.....	2.5	.....	.....	2.3	2.2	.....	2.3	2.4	.....
Sugar beets.....	2.8	.....	.....	2.9	2.8	.....	2.3	2.7	.....
Clover.....	3.1	3.4	3.1	2.8	2.8	3.0	1.9	2.0	2.1

HUNGARY.

Winter cereals, sown last autumn on increased areas under unusually favorable circumstances and stimulated in growth by an open winter, were exceptionally luxuriant at the advent of spring. A warm, pleasant March aroused further extravagant hopes of an abundant harvest. From the beginning to the end of April, however, low temperatures, accompanied in many places by heavy falls of snow and floods of rain, temporarily suspended field work incident to spring seedings and at the time were believed to jeopardize the chance of expected abundance from the autumn-sown crops. As recovery of vegetation from apparently serious injury during early stages of its growth is a common phenomenon in agriculture, the numerous reports of generally fine, growing weather throughout the greater part of May and June warrant confidence in an average outcome of the 1912 crops. Much of damage to fruit and vineyards is of course irreparable. The Hungarian Ministry of Agriculture, in its June 10 report on the state of agriculture, gives the condition of wheat as good in 43 comitats and medium in 20; rye, good in 36 comitats and medium in 27; barley, excellent in 2 comitats, good in 32, medium in 29; oats, good in 15 comitats, medium in 41, and poor in 7. In the report of June 23 the prospective yield of wheat is put at 173 million bushels against 175 million last year. Wheat, rye, corn, and potatoes have been sown on increased areas, but barley and oats show decreases. The official estimate of areas sown in 1912 and 1911 is shown below :

Area sown to specified crops in Hungary, 1912 and 1911.

Crop.	1912	1911
	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>
Wheat.....	8,650,787	8,353,592
Rye.....	2,775,674	2,690,760
Barley.....	2,645,816	2,736,084
Oats.....	2,496,918	2,653,034
Corn.....	6,186,876	6,089,950
Potatoes.....	1,542,111	1,534,155

ROUMANIA.

The weather during the spring, excepting a cold spell in late April, was generally propitious, and the appearance of the fields as a whole is said to suggest a prosperous season.

A comprehensive view of the agricultural resources of the country, as illustrated by statistics of the area under and production of different crops during the last three years, has recently been published and is reproduced below:

Area and production of specified crops in Roumania, 1911-1909.

[From Statistica agricola a Romaniei, 1911.]

Crop.	Area.			Production (Winchester bushels).		
	1911	1910	1909	1911	1910	1909
	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Bushels.</i>	<i>Bushels.</i>	<i>Bushels.</i>
Wheat.....	4,769,435	4,814,044	4,173,628	93,723,825	110,760,519	56,750,819
Rye.....	325,668	429,611	337,450	4,989,346	7,884,782	3,090,321
Barley.....	1,253,294	1,357,545	1,357,039	26,157,144	29,358,651	19,955,240
Oats.....	991,896	1,103,944	1,197,209	26,222,133	29,645,557	25,945,196
Corn.....	5,152,655	4,908,046	5,247,102	110,712,338	103,665,228	70,137,958
Millet.....	97,380	67,263	150,190	1,626,238	939,923	974,512
Buckwheat.....	1,532	1,661	3,467	16,975	21,978	27,730
Colza.....	157,788	237,404	170,860	1,800,575	3,935,581	1,495,950
Sunflower seed.....	9,916	1,661	1,544	206,272	62,177	21,112
Flaxseed.....	52,197	33,116	30,079	602,648	362,950	205,418
Hemp seed.....	15,224	14,352	15,968	103,221	93,769	79,036
Peas.....	31,950	23,299	32,852	576,850	494,438	389,840
Lentils.....	2,132	5,896	6,395	21,164	70,605	65,789
Beans.....	539	358	680	9,004	4,200	8,039
Haricots.....	¹ 91,973	¹ 70,055	¹ 76,413	¹ 1,049,433	¹ 728,194	¹ 414,917
Potatoes.....	² 1,252,273	² 1,127,330	² 1,202,443	² 3,543,521	² 2,984,568	² 2,299,070
	¹ 29,729	¹ 25,432	¹ 21,374	¹ 4,239,971	¹ 3,846,777	¹ 2,451,592
	² 60,932	² 49,887	² 50,996	² 1,423,838	² 999,035	² 1,360,925
Anise seed.....	262	131	104	3,113	1,853	325
Mustard seed.....	119	116	7	142	536	14
Poppy seed.....	151	96	27	837	1,098	170
Rice.....	2	15	.....	48	108	.....
				<i>Tons.³</i>	<i>Tons.³</i>	<i>Tons.⁴</i>
Sugar beets.....	33,613	32,909	28,184	289,962	339,658	229,135
Onions.....	8,908	8,686	9,306	28,707	30,836	34,063
Alfalfa and clover.....	143,896	119,727	105,428	271,957	221,640	171,873
Other artificial meadows.....	255,650	212,106	277,973	343,522	278,383	262,407
Turnips, swedes, etc.....	2,224	2,110	1,176	17,531	18,542	8,483
Natural meadows.....	984,711	977,676	1,010,216	864,172	910,976	746,984
Plums.....	180,264	173,946	170,966	115,546	327,018	40,475
				<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>
Tobacco.....	24,690	23,544	20,391	20,509,394	15,433,743	12,098,183
Chicory.....	255	156	49	1,931,891	1,651,245	238,979
				<i>Number.</i>	<i>Number.</i>	<i>Number.</i>
Cabbage.....	13,425	14,008	15,975	49,728,300	55,979,800	57,356,100
Watermelons and melons.....	17,658	20,885	19,921	19,004,300	20,564,900	19,255,200
Pumpkins.....	¹ 680	¹ 437	¹ 432	¹ 445,400	¹ 215,100	¹ 72,200
	² 1,102,790	² 975,091	² 1,014,536	² 164,839,900	² 117,120,700	² 122,842,400
Vines.....	176,523	183,385	182,800	<i>Gallons.</i>	<i>Gallons.</i>	<i>Gallons.</i>
				26,243,625	45,260,986	33,549,854

¹ Planted alone.² Planted with corn.³ 2,000 pounds.

BULGARIA.

According to the latest advices, the prospects for the cereals—wheat, rye, barley, oats, and rye—were very good in northern Bul-

garia. The autumn-sown crops in general looked well and the promise was, if favorable weather prevailed up to harvest, for yields as abundant as those of 1912.

RUSSIA.

According to a recent report of the Central Statistical Committee, the areas sown to cereals for the 1911 harvest in 89 provinces and territories of the Russian Empire were as follows: Spring wheat 60,353,000 and winter wheat 19,733,000 acres; spring rye 1,952,000, and winter rye 72,046,000 acres; barley, 30,915,000 acres; oats, 46,183,000 acres; and corn, 4,908,000 acres. The areas sown for the 1912 harvest have not yet been officially estimated; but the indications are that the progressive movement of the last few years in the sowing of spring wheat, barley, and oats has continued to some extent in the present season. Last autumn the seeding of winter rye and wheat was effected under good conditions, and, as crop reports in the spring were singularly free from references to winter-kill, the assumption seems warranted that no more than the usual losses have resulted from this cause. The sowings of spring wheat and rye, on the other hand, though delayed over wide areas by adverse weather, are believed not to have been diminished, excepting, perhaps, in the spring-wheat provinces of southeastern Russia, where difficulty was experienced in obtaining seed because of the crop failure last year.

According to a semiofficial authority the appearance of the crops in early June was encouraging. The condition of winter wheat and the spring-sown crops was in general above average and that of winter rye good. The only adverse reports were from Northern Poland, where all crops were rated as unsatisfactory. Meteorological conditions since the date of the report have been generally favorable; present appearances give rise to hope of abundant harvests.

EGYPT.

Agriculture, occupied for the greater part in raising corn, cotton, and wheat, has in late years made noteworthy progress, principally along the lines of cotton production. Almost a half million acres have been added to the cultivation of this crop within the past decade. The area under corn, the principal crop, has not increased in like proportion, nor has wheat, while the surface devoted to beans and barley has declined. Below is a statement of the acreage under different crops for the last five years for which official estimates are available.

Area of specified crops in Egypt, 1905-6 to 1909-10.

Crop.	1905-6	1906-7	1907-8	1908-9	1909-10
	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>
Cotton.....	1,563,228	1,663,914	1,702,320	1,657,686	1,705,434
Corn.....	1,837,437	1,867,654	1,868,094	1,863,021	1,910,598
Rice.....	230,575	249,157	258,216	282,149	298,054
Wheat.....	1,266,548	1,264,643	1,212,556	1,296,736	1,299,285
Beans.....	604,332	618,319	561,646	588,222	581,939
Barley.....	472,669	475,833	457,349	439,378	403,841
Sugar cane.....	52,570	42,566	40,027	45,653	50,778
Fodder and miscellaneous crops.....	1,710,703	1,743,346	1,757,379	1,755,635	1,722,254
Orchards and gardens.....	26,443	27,820	28,500	31,487	33,115
Total.....	7,764,505	7,953,252	7,886,147	7,961,967	8,005,298

According to the Egyptian Department of Agriculture, cotton in 1912 was planted 10 days earlier than last year. The crop was in excellent condition on July 1 and is from 15 to 20 days in advance of last year. An unusually large number of cotton worm egg masses are being picked daily throughout the Delta, and it is hoped to keep the pest under control by the energetic measures which are now in force.

No effect on the cotton crop from shortage of water is apparent at present, except in a few isolated cases; but cultivators are urged to exercise the utmost economy in the use of the available supply, as any waste or needless watering will endanger the crops of those less favorably situated on the distributory canals.

ALGERIA AND TUNIS.

Harvest began in late May, about two weeks earlier than usual, and is expected to give rather medium results. A prolonged drought in early spring in the coastal districts of Algeria and throughout Tunis is believed to have injured crops to an extent not wholly reparable by the subsequent abundant rains. In the interior districts of Algeria conditions are more favorable.

AUSTRALIA.

The Monthly Summary of Australian Statistics, March, 1912, published at Melbourne under the authority of the Minister for Home Affairs, contains a statement of the area, production, and exports of wheat in the Commonwealth of Australia from the year of its establishment up to 1912. During the first decade the area under wheat made no permanent increase; in fact, the extent of land under this grain in 1908-9 was smaller than 10 years previous. But from 1909-10 to 1911-12 occurred a marked revival of interest in its culture,

due largely to good prices; and in the three years an addition of almost $2\frac{1}{2}$ million acres was made to the area sown. Owing to unfavorable meteorological conditions, the 1911-12 yield was about 20 million bushels less than that of the preceding year. The statistics follow:

Area, production, and exports of wheat in Australia, 1900-1912.

[From Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics.]

Crop year.	Area.	Production.	Calendar year.	Exports.	
				Wheat.	Wheat flour.
	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Bushels.¹</i>		<i>Bushels.²</i>	<i>Barrels.³</i>
1900-1.....	5,666,614	49,877,259	1901	20,260,058	987,898
1901-2.....	5,115,965	39,776,888	1902	8,999,282	336,949
1902-3.....	5,156,049	12,768,163	1903 ⁴	1,172,838	62,214
1903-4.....	5,566,340	76,486,460	1904	33,071,653	1,052,490
1904-5.....	6,269,778	56,254,271	1905	24,648,182	1,573,663
1905-6.....	6,122,746	70,680,204	1906	30,262,335	1,702,806
1906-7.....	5,982,186	68,514,628	1907	28,784,130	1,667,724
1907-8.....	5,383,911	46,062,997	1908	15,027,388	1,191,867
1908-9.....	5,262,473	64,563,551	1909	31,549,498	1,326,214
1909-10.....	6,586,236	93,262,982	1910	47,761,895	1,428,020
1910-11.....	7,372,456	98,109,437	1911	54,970,289	1,808,255
1911-12 ⁵	7,380,499	75,161,977	1912		

¹ Winchester bushels reduced from imperial.

² Bushels of 60 pounds.

³ Barrels of 196 pounds.

⁴ Crop failure; imports, 9,114,490 bushels, practically all from Argentina and United States.

⁵ Preliminary.

Wheat cultivation is on the most extensive scale in Victoria, South Australia, and New South Wales, but there is also a notable increase in late years in the smaller area of Western Australia. The area and yield in the different States is shown in the following statement:

Area and production of wheat in Australia, by States, 1911-12 to 1907-8.

[From Monthly Summary of Australian Statistics, January, 1912.]

AREA.

State.	1911-12	1910-11	1909-10	1908-9	1907-8
	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>
Queensland.....	47,538	106,718	117,160	80,898	82,461
New South Wales.....	2,267,845	2,128,826	1,990,180	1,394,056	1,390,171
Victoria.....	2,164,066	2,398,089	2,097,162	1,779,905	1,847,121
South Australia.....	2,300,000	2,104,719	1,895,738	1,693,501	1,753,755
Western Australia.....	559,145	581,862	448,918	285,011	279,609
Tasmania.....	41,905	52,242	37,078	29,102	30,794
Total Commonwealth.....	7,380,499	7,372,456	6,586,236	5,262,473	5,383,911

Area and production of wheat in Australia, etc.—Continued.

PRODUCTION.

State.	1911-12 ¹	1910-11	1909-10	1908-9	1907-8
	<i>Bushels.</i> ²	<i>Bushels.</i> ²	<i>Bushels.</i> ²	<i>Bushels.</i> ²	<i>Bushels.</i> ²
Queensland.....	393,238	1,054,593	1,621,118	1,240,705	715,384
New South Wales.....	25,391,876	28,793,242	29,431,216	15,971,231	9,444,432
Victoria.....	21,550,244	35,910,151	29,687,105	24,081,387	12,482,136
South Australia.....	21,661,815	25,111,985	25,925,944	20,008,990	19,738,614
Western Australia.....	5,312,188	6,683,401	5,778,927	2,538,376	3,017,893
Tasmania.....	852,576	1,156,064	818,672	722,862	664,538
Total Commonwealth.....	75,161,977	98,109,436	93,262,982	64,563,551	46,062,997

¹ Preliminary.² Winchester bushels reduced from imperial.

RUSSIA.

An official report has been recently received showing the condition of the crops in Russia on July 1, 1912, as compared with June 1, 1912, and July 1, 1911. The figures follow:

Condition of crops in Russia.

[1=very good; 2=good; 3=medium; 4=poor; 5=very poor.]

Crops.	July 1, 1912.	June 1, 1912.	July 1, 1911.	Crops.	July 1, 1912.	June 1, 1912.	July 1, 1911.
Winter wheat.....	2.4	2.5	2.7	Beans.....	2.4	2.6	3.1
Spring wheat.....	2.3	2.4	3.1	Vetch.....	2.5	2.7	2.8
Winter spelt.....	2.1	2.1	2.5	Potatoes.....	2.7	2.8	2.6
Winter rye.....	2.5	2.7	2.8	Sugar beets.....	2.6	2.8	3.1
Spring rye.....	2.7	2.9	3.2	Winter rapeseed.....	2.9	2.9	2.7
Spring barley.....	2.3	2.4	2.8	Clover.....	3.3	3.6	3.3
Oats.....	2.5	2.5	3.0	Lucerne.....	2.8	3.0	3.2
Peas.....	2.9	2.6	3.0				

Approved:

JAMES WILSON,

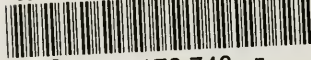
Secretary of Agriculture.

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 10, 1912.

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